



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS TO BE MADE ELECTRONICALLY *STATE MAKES MOVE FOR SPEED AND SECURITY*

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— The Tennessee Department of Human Services is making a change in the way it makes child support payments. The Department will begin phasing out paper checks this summer and implementing an all-electronic disbursement method. Custodial parents will have the choice of receiving their support payments through either direct deposit or debit cards. Notices are being sent to parents next week about the impending change.

“Electronic disbursement is a much more efficient way of getting the support to the children as quickly as possible” said DHS Commissioner Gina Lodge. “In addition to being a more secure way of sending out child support, direct deposit and debit cards will cut down on the thousands of checks that come back to DHS as ‘undeliverable mail’ each month.”

The Department already allows parents to receive their child support payments through direct deposit. If a parent wishes to use this method, he or she can sign up for this service today by calling the Child Support Information Line toll-free at 1-800-838-6911. A copy of the direct deposit form can also be downloaded and printed from the DHS website. There are currently 24,000 parents taking advantage of direct deposit.

The debit card program will begin this summer for a parent who chooses that method. Debit cards will start being sent to custodial parents in July, and payments will automatically be entered into the account. Even though DHS is eliminating paper checks, it will mail statements to parents alerting them when a deposit has been made into the account.

The debit card program will be phased in over several months, and most parents are expected to be enrolled by the end of this calendar year. More information on the program will be sent to parents in coming weeks.

There are nearly 240,000 active child support cases with support orders in Tennessee and approximately 200,000 child support checks, totaling more than \$40 million, are mailed out every month.

For more information on the Child Support Program, visit the DHS website:
<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/child-support.htm>

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